DC
FEATURING THE MACABRE MASTER OF FEAR--
THE SCARECROW!
35¢
NO. 296
FEB.
30430
BAT MAN

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE SLAIN BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
THE BATMAN
THIS IS WHAT I PROMISE! THE DAUNTLESS BATMAN IN THE FIERY GRIP OF TERROR -- PITTED AGAINST HIMSELF AND THE SECRET OF HIS OWN HIDDEN -- AND UNSUSPECTED -- FEAR!
COME TO THE [illegible] FACTORY -- AND MEET THE MALEVOLENT MERCHANT OF HEART-QUAKE! THE SCARECROW! -- SPECIAL GUEST IN THE SHAKES, SHIVERS AND COLD SWEAT -- MATCH HIS CUNNING AND CRUELTY AGAINST COURAGE IN --

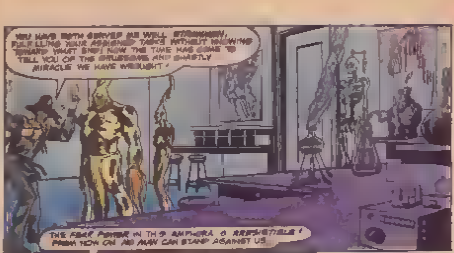
"The SINISTER STRAWS of the SCARECROW"

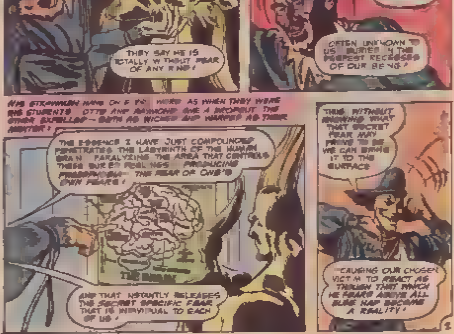
WRITER DAVID V. READ ★ ARTIST SAL AMENDOLA
LETTERER MILT SNAPINN ★ COLORIST JERRY SERPE ★ EDITOR JULIUS SCHWARTZ

[illegible] Rockefeller Plaza, New York [illegible] Copyright © 1977 [illegible] Printed in U.S.A.

[illegible]

Jenette Kahn, Publisher
Joe Orlando, Managing Editor
Julius Schwartz, Editor
[illegible]
Paul Levitz, Editorial Coordinator
Sol Harrison, President
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer





YOU HAVE BOTH SERVED ME WELL, STRAWMEN, FULFILLING YOUR ASSIGNED TASKS WITHOUT KNOWING TOWARD WHAT END! NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO TELL YOU OF THE GRUESOME AND GHASTLY MIRACLE WE HAVE WROUGHT!
THE FEAR POWER IN THIS AMPHORA IS IRRESISTIBLE! FROM NOW ON NO MAN CAN STAND AGAINST US.
NOT EVEN THE BATMAN ?
THEY SAY HE IS TOTALLY WITHOUT FEAR OF ANY KIND!
AND NOW, FOR THE MOMENT, THE MASTER OF PANIC IS ONCE AGAIN JONATHAN CRANE, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY LECTURING AT THE UNIVERSITY!
NONSENSE!
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A TOTALLY FEARLESS HUMAN!
EACH OF US HAS SOME SPECIAL SUPREME DREAD—
OFTEN UNKNOWN TO US, BURIED IN THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF OUR BEING!
HIS STRAWMEN HANG ON EVERY WORD AS WHEN THEY WERE HIS STUDENTS... OTTO AND RAYMOND, ONE A DROPOUT, THE OTHER EXPELLED— BOTH AS WICKED AND WARPED AS THEIR MENTOR!
THE ESSENCE I HAVE JUST COMPOUNDED PENETRATES THE LABYRINTH OF THE HUMAN BRAIN, PARALYZING THE AREA THAT CONTROLS THESE BURIED FEELINGS... PRODUCING PHOBOPHOBIA— THE FEAR OF ONE'S OWN FEARS!
THE BRAIN
AND THAT INSTANTLY RELEASES THE SECRET SPECIFIC FEAR THAT IS INDIVIDUAL TO EACH OF US!
THUS, WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THAT SECRET FEAR MAY PROVE TO BE, WE CAN BRING IT TO THE SURFACE
—CAUSING OUR CHOSEN VICTIM TO REACT AS THOUGH THAT WHICH HE FEARS ABOVE ALL ELSE HAD BECOME A REALITY!

SO? WHERE'S YOUR ENTHUSIASM? YOU'RE NOT OVERWHELMED?
OH YES PROFESSOR BUT WELL... YOU'VE TAUGHT US TO USE THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD AND WE'VE HAD NO TEST CASE...
QUITE CORRECT. WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO SAMPLE THE EFFECTS OF THE ELIXIR?
NOT ME!
ME NEITHER!
YOU AGREE, OTTO -- SO YOU SHALL SERVE AS THE GUINEA PIG!
REMOVE YOUR FILTER!
NO! NOT HIM!
[illegible] EXPECTED PYROPHOBIA ① OR ALGOPHOBIA ② -- OR ANTHOPHOBIA ③
--BUT OTTO'S HIT THE TRULY TERRIBLE JACKPOT--
[illegible] PHOBIA -- THE PHOBIC FEAR OF THE BATMAN!
THE BATMAN -- EVERYWHERE!
HELP!
Note ① FEAR OF FIRE ② FEAR OF PAIN ③ FEAR OF FLOWERS

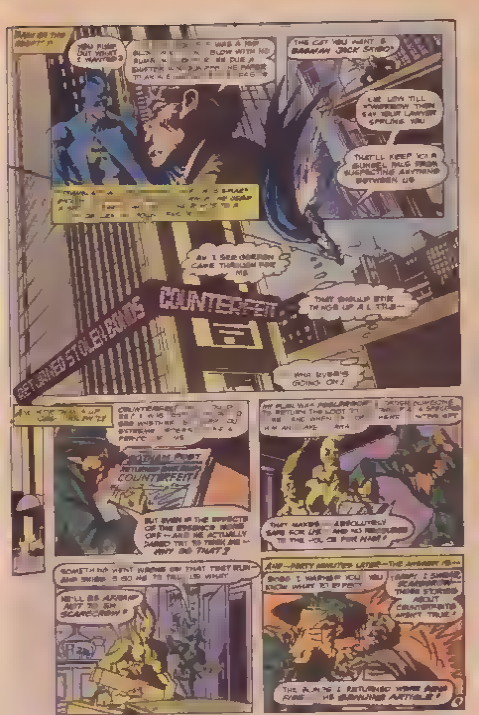
ACROSS THIS MOUNTAIN I'LL ESCAPE SOMEHOW!
THE BATMAN!
GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HIM!
SUDDENLY--
I'M FALLING
TO MY DEATH!
BARELY TWENTY SECONDS HAVE ELAPSED -- AN ETERNITY!
WHEW I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER!
NO-- IT'S ONLY BEGINNING! STRAWMEN, WE'RE NOW IN BUSINESS! LET'S SPREAD SOME FEAR AROUND TOWN!

INTRODUCING JARVIS SKIBO— A MAN WHO IS ABOUT TO HAVE A MOST EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE
WHAT'S THIS ON MY DESK? TWO STRINGS — BENT TO FORM MY INITIALS!
WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?
MR SKIBO PICKS UP ONE OF THE STRINGS—AND THE INSTANT HE TOUCHES IT—
IT CAUGHT FIRE BY ITSELF! GIVING OFF DENSE SMOKE... FUMES
I CAN'T SEE CAN'T MOVE!
MY GOD! I'M LOCKED IN A COFFIN!
NO—NO— IT'S A MISTAKE!
I'M ALIVE! CAN'T ANYONE HEAR ME?
YOU'RE BURYING ME ALIVE!

AT THAT GHOULISH, HORRIFYING MOMENT--
TAPHEPHOBIA! FREDD THINKS HE'S BEING BURIED ALIVE!
QUICK NOW, RAYMOND-- BEFORE HIS HEART GIVES OUT... THE ANTIDOTE!
IS HE STILL ALIVE?
IF HE ISN'T, WELL, GO BACK TO THE TEST TUBE AND START ALL OVER AGAIN
HEH...HEH! JUST A BIT OF GRIM HUMOR, SCARECROW
AHH... HE'S OUT OF IT
FOR THE LOVE OF GOD-- STOP-- STOP!
JARVIS SIKES, UNLESS YOU DO EXACTLY AS I SAY YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY, IRREVERSIBLY BE ENTOMBED IN YOUR OWN NIGHTMARE AGAIN
UNTIL IT COMES TRUE
I KNOW YOU HAVE THE STATE TURNPIKE BONDS STOLEN FROM THE GOTHAM CITY NATIONAL BANK LAST OCTOBER
WHEREVER THOSE BONDS ARE NOW HIDDEN, YOU'LL GET THEM AND DO [illegible]
N-NO! NO! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU TELL ME!

THE DAY LATER... 9 A.M. — AT THE GOTHAM CITY NATIONAL BANK — WHERE THE STARTLING, BARELY EXPLAINABLE NEWS HAS SUMMONED SEVERAL OF THE BANK'S DIRECTORS—
—AMONG THEM TYCOON BRUCE WAYNE — ALIAS THE BATMAN (OR IS IT VICE VERSA?) WHICH GIVES HIM DOUBLE THE REASON TO BE THERE
ABSOLUTELY MYSTIFYING, MR. WAYNE! THEY WERE SIMPLY PLACED IN THE OUTSIDE DEPOSITORY SOME TIME LAST NIGHT — AND THEY'RE ALL HERE — EVERY LAST ONE OF THE TURNPIKE BONDS THAT VANISHED IN OCTOBER
A HALF-MILLION ALL NEGOTIABLE — RETURNED WITHOUT A WORD!
AND WITHOUT A CLUE. THE ONLY PRINTS WE PICKED UP ARE FROM THE PEOPLE HERE WHO HANDLED THEM. SO THAT'S IT. NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO
WE'VE GOT THE BONDS BACK. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!
SEE YOU SOON, WAYNE!
FASCINATING. I'VE NEVER YET HEARD OF A CROOK WHO GAVE BACK ANYTHING EXCEPT AS PART OF A CON — AN INVESTMENT — AND THIS IS QUITE AN INVESTMENT
GOTHAM CITY NATIONAL BANK
[illegible] LAST FALL [illegible] ARE [illegible] FOSTER AND WE [illegible] AS AN UNSOLVED [illegible]
BUT NOW — WITH THIS BIZARRE STUNT — THEY'VE GIVEN ME A SECOND CRACK AT THEM—
AND THAT'S ONCE TOO OFTEN!
THE NEWS [illegible] ALL CARRY THIS STORY SO FIRST I'LL [illegible] COMMISSIONER GORDON AND ARRANGE TO THROW A CLINKER INTO THE MORNING TIMES' TO HIT THE EVENING PAPERS — THEN LOOK UP [illegible]!
IS ANYTHING WRONG, MR. WAYNE?
WRONG, MR. BALDWIN?
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG ON A GLORIOUS MORNING WHEN YOU GET BACK A STOLEN HALF-MILLION DOLLARS?

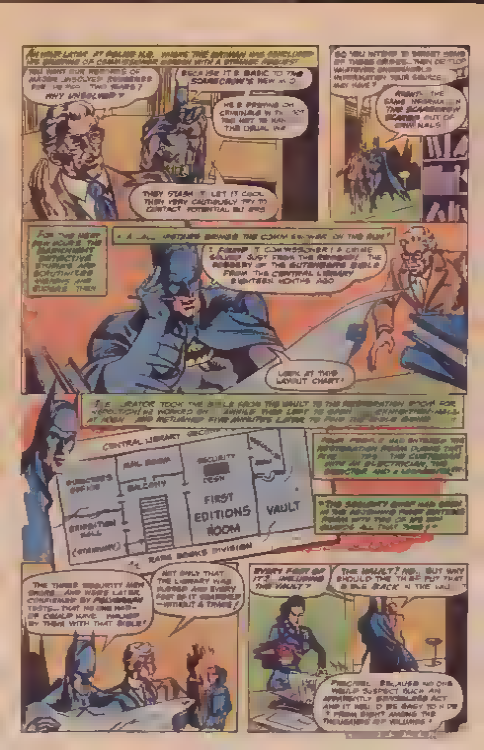
MEANWHILE...A ROOFTOP JUST OFF TIMES SQUARE
LEO'S HOME ALL RIGHT—BUT HE'S GOT HIMSELF SOME UNEXPECTED, AND [illegible] VISITORS!
YOU BATTLED DEAD EYE BOWES LAST NIGHT, SCHEMER [illegible] AND WE'RE APPLYING [illegible] A [illegible] FUND
ATTORNEY
SORRY, BUT I HAVE PRIORITY!
AND CONSIDER YOURSELVES LUCKY YOU'RE NOT GOING WITH HIM!
I'M TAKING THE SCHEMER IN FOR EXTRADITION!
C'MON, YOU!



YOU FIND OUT WHAT I WANTED?
THE GUY YOU WANT IS BAHAMAH JACK SHIBO!
LIE LOW TILL TOMORROW THEN SAY YOUR LAWYER SPRUNG YOU
THAT'LL KEEP YOUR GUNSEL PALS FROM SUSPECTING ANYTHING BETWEEN US
AH, I SEE GORDON CAME THROUGH FOR ME
RETURNED STOLEN BONDS COUNTERFEIT
THAT SHOULD STIR THINGS UP A LITTLE--
WHAT EVER'S GOING ON!
GOTHAM POST
COUNTERFEIT!
BUT EVEN IF THE EFFECTS OF THE ESSENCE WORE OFF -- AND HE ACTUALLY DARED TRY TO TRICK ME -- WHY DO THAT?
MY PLAN WAS FOOLPROOF
SOMETHING WENT WRONG ON THAT TEST RUN-- AND SHIBO IS GOING TO TELL US WHAT
HE'LL BE AFRAID NOT TO, EH SCARECROW?
AND -- FORTY MINUTES LATER -- THE ANSWER IS --
SHIBO, I WARNED YOU -- YOU KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT
HONEST, I SWEAR, SCARECROW -- THOSE STORIES ABOUT COUNTERFEITS AREN'T TRUE!
THE BONDS I RETURNED WERE THE GENUINE ARTICLE!

YOU CAN'T LIFT ME BIRD! I'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU SAID! SAVE ME!
WELL SCARE- I CAN SAVE YOU- BUT NOT IF YOU STICK TO THAT PHONY STORY! I WANT THE TRUTH!
GET TO THE STRAW!
NEVER MIND THAT!
YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN THIS INSTANT THE STRAW TOUCHES YOU! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!
RAYMOND, OPEN THE TUBE—AND TAKE OUT A STRAW FOR MR SHEED!
THE NEXT INSTANT
LET'S KEEP THE LID ON, SCARECROW!
AND THEN WE'LL PUT A LID ON YOU!
CRASH!

BOOM!
THE BATMAN IS HURT STUNNED--
THOUGH ONLY MOMENTARILY
--BUT THE DAMAGE IS DONE!
GONE!
SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS L ME THAT TUBE!
THEN--
START TALKING BAGMAN JACK! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THIS WAS A L ABOUT EVERYTHING!
TALK!
I I CAN T! F I TALK I-M DEAD!
AND THE MOMENT OF TRUTH ARRIVES FOR JARVIS SKYE--
WHEN HE S AS MANY HAVE BE --
TALK!
THE SURPASSING LEGENDARY FEAR THAT THE BATMAN INSPIRES IN THE HEARTS OF MEN!
--CLAP BEYOND ALL OTHERS!

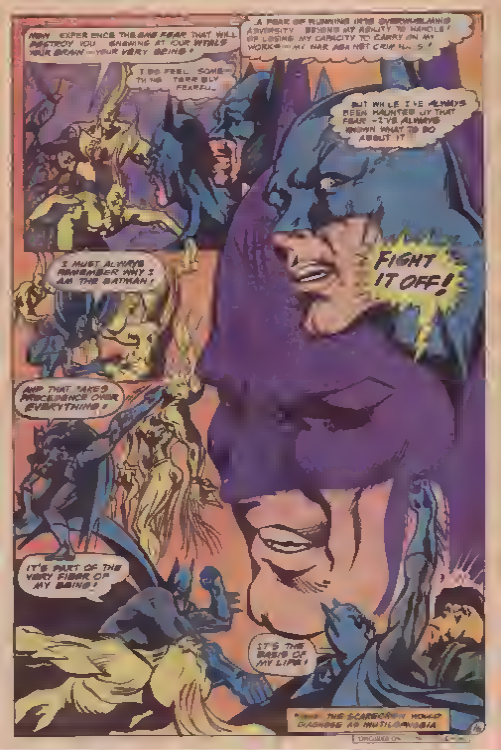


AN HOUR LATER, AT POLICE H.Q., WHERE THE BATMAN HAS CONCLUDED HIS BRIEFING OF COMMISSIONER GORDON WITH A STRANGE REQUEST
YOU WANT OUR RECORDS OF MAJOR UNSOLVED ROBBERIES FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS? WHY UNSOLVED?
BECAUSE IT'S BASIC TO THE SCARECROW'S NEW M.O.
HE'S PREYING ON CRIMINALS WHO [illegible] THE NET TO HAN[illegible] THE USUAL WAY
THEY STASH IT, LET IT COOL, THEN VERY CAUTIOUSLY TRY TO CONTACT POTENTIAL BUYERS
SO YOU INTEND TO [illegible] SOME OF THESE CRIMES... THEN DEVELOP WHATEVER UNDERWORLD INFORMATION YOUR SOURCE MAY HAVE?
RIGHT-- THE SAME INFORMATION THE SCARECROW SCARED OUT OF CRIMINALS
FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS THE DARKKNIGHT DETECTIVE STUDIES AND SCRUTINIZES REPORTS AND FIGURES. THEN
A CALL [illegible] BRINGS THE COMMISSIONER ON THE RUN!
I FOUND IT, COMMISSIONER! A CRIME SOLVED JUST FROM THE RECORDS! THE ROBBERY OF THE GUTENBERG BIBLE FROM THE CENTRAL LIBRARY EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO
LOOK AT THIS LAYOUT CHART!
THE CURATOR TOOK THE BIBLE FROM THE VAULT TO THE RESTORATION ROOM FOR INSPECTION! HE WORKED ON IT AWHILE, THEN LEFT TO OPEN THE EXHIBITION HALL AT NOON, AND RETURNED FIVE MINUTES LATER TO FIND THE BIBLE GONE!
CENTRAL LIBRARY SECOND
MAIL ROOM
SECURITY
DESK
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BALCONY
FIRST EDITIONS ROOM
VAULT
EXHIBITION HALL
(STAIRWAY)
RARE BOOKS DIVISION
FOUR PEOPLE HAD ENTERED THE RESTORATION ROOM DURING THAT FIVE MINUTES: THE CUSTODIAN WITH AN ELECTRICIAN, THE DIRECTOR AND A [illegible]
THE SECURITY CHIEF HAD BEEN IN THE ADJOINING FIRST EDITIONS ROOM WITH TWO OF HIS MEN DURING ALL THAT TIME!
THE THREE SECURITY MEN SWORE... AND WERE LATER CONFIRMED BY POLYGRAPH TESTS... THAT NO ONE HAD-- OR COULD HAVE-- WALKED BY THEM WITH THAT BIBLE!
NOT ONLY THAT, THE LIBRARY WAS CLOSED AND EVERY FOOT OF IT SEARCHED --WITHOUT A TRACE!
EVERY FOOT OF IT? INCLUDING THE VAULT?
THE VAULT? NO... BUT WHY SHOULD THE THIEF PUT THAT BIBLE BACK IN THE VAULT?
PRECISELY, BECAUSE NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT SUCH AN APPARENTLY SENSELESS ACT, AND IT WOULD BE EASY TO HIDE IT FROM SIGHT AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF VOLUMES!

BUT HOW COULD HE GET IT OUT AGAIN?
EASILY
IF THE CULPRIT WERE SOMEONE WITH COMPLETE ACCESS TO THE VAULT
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
HE'D GO IN THERE SOME NIGHT AFTER CLOSING, TAKE THE BIBLE, CRATE IT WITH OTHER BOOKS, AND THE NEXT DAY HAVE THE MAIL ROOM SHIP THE CRATE TO A DROP!
NOW, OF THE FOUR WHO WENT INTO THE RESTORATION ROOM ONLY ONE COULD HAVE DONE IT. OBVIOUSLY --
-- THURSTON BINNS THE DIRECTOR!
YES, COMMISSIONER, MR. BINNS, WHO WILL NOW PROVE USEFUL IN BRINGING THE SCARECROW TO ME!
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT ...AT THE RESIDENCE OF THURSTON BINNS, THE QUIET BROKEN ONLY BY THE DISCREET TICKING OF A CLOCK AND THE OCCASIONAL SOUND OF SNORING...
ALL AT ONCE
WAKE UP, BINNS! YOU HAVE VISITORS!
W-WHAT? WHO ARE YOU IN THESE MONSTROUS MASQUERADES?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
CALM YOURSELF! I'LL EXPLAIN OUR MISSION IN A MOMENT
BUT FIRST, I HAVE A FEW STRAWS HERE... RATHER REMARKABLE STRAWS -- AND I'D LIKE YOU TO EXAMINE ONE!

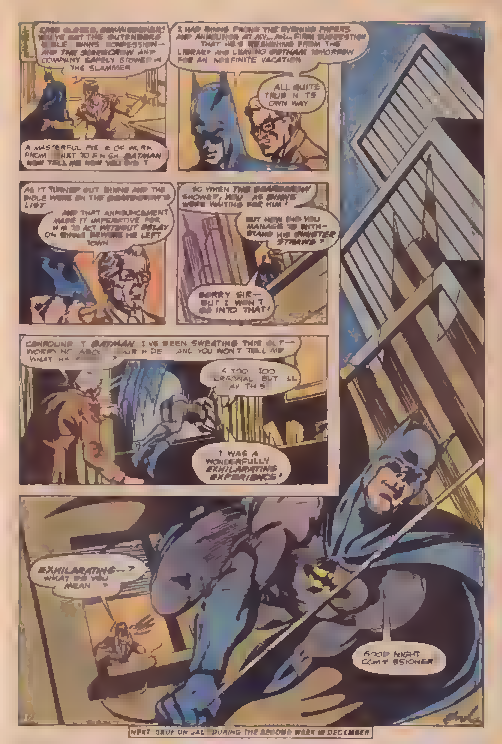
IT'S ALL OVER, SCARECROW!

YES! ALL OVER BATMAN - FOR YOU!
SHOW HIM STRAWMEN!
BUT THE [illegible] AND GETS IN THE FIRST BLOW...
...TWO STRAWMEN...
...AND THREE!
THE INSTANT THE BATMAN TOUCH THE SCARECROW HE...
SOMEHOW YOU KNEW ABOUT THE STRAWS IN THE TUBS
BUT NOT ABOUT THE SPECIAL STRAWS INSIDE!



NOW EXPERIENCE THE ONE FEAR THAT WILL DESTROY YOU -- GNAWING AT YOUR VITALS -- YOUR BRAIN -- YOUR VERY BEING!
I DO FEEL SOMETHING TERRIBLY FEARFUL...
...A FEAR OF RUNNING INTO OVERWHELMING ADVERSITY -- BEYOND MY ABILITY TO HANDLE! OF LOSING MY CAPACITY TO CARRY ON MY WORK* -- MY WAR AGAINST CRIMINALS!
BUT WHILE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HAUNTED BY THAT FEAR -- I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT!
FIGHT IT OFF!
I MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER WHY I AM THE BATMAN!
AND THAT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER EVERYTHING!
IT'S PART OF THE VERY FIBER OF MY BEING!
IT'S THE BASIS OF MY LIFE!
*... THE SCARECROW WOULD DIAGNOSE AS MUTILOPHOBIA
16

CONTINUED ON [illegible]



CASE CLOSED, COMMISSIONER! YOU'VE GOT THE GUTENBERG BIBLE, BINNS' CONFESSION— AND THE SCARECROW AND COMPANY SAFELY STOWED IN THE SLAMMER
A MASTERFUL PIECE OF WORK FROM START TO FINISH, BATMAN. NOW TELL ME HOW YOU DID IT.
I HAD BINNS PHONE THE EVENING PAPERS AND ANNOUNCE AT MY... AH... FIRM SUGGESTION THAT HE'S RESIGNING FROM THE LIBRARY AND LEAVING GOTHAM TOMORROW FOR AN INDEFINITE VACATION
ALL QUITE TRUE IN ITS OWN WAY
AS IT TURNED OUT, BINNS AND THE BIBLE WERE ON THE SCARECROW'S LIST
AND THAT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IT IMPERATIVE FOR HIM TO ACT WITHOUT DELAY ON BINNS BEFORE HE LEFT TOWN
SO WHEN THE SCARECROW SHOWED, YOU AND BINNS WERE WAITING FOR HIM!
BUT HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO WITHSTAND HIS SINISTER STRAINS?
SORRY SIR— BUT I WON'T GO INTO THAT!
CONFOUND IT, BATMAN! I'VE BEEN SWEATING THIS OUT— WORRYING ABOUT YOUR HIDE— AND YOU WON'T TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S TOO— TOO PERSONAL. BUT I'LL SAY THIS
IT WAS A WONDERFULLY EXHILARATING EXPERIENCE!
EXHILARATING--? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
GOOD NIGHT, COMMISSIONER

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN DECEMBER

BAT SIGNALS

Dear Gothamites:

Now wait a minute! Before I let myself enjoy **BATMAN #291** too much, there are some things we're going to have to get settled. Just why do all these villains think **The Batman** is dead? Apparently, the body was never found, and the time and place of his alleged demise are wholly uncertain, so what do they have to go on? [illegible] **Alfred**, **Commissioner Gordon** and the **JLA** think **Batman's** deceased? If so, how are they relating to the [illegible]?

Furthermore, to what extent, if any, are we to take the villains' testimony as true? Is it all an attempt to [illegible] the [illegible]? In [illegible] **Bernard** die? **Two-Face** indicates that much of the [illegible] story did in fact take place. But are we meant to think that the [illegible] actually shot **Batman** and that he survived? If it did happen, how could **Batman** have lived through it? If not, why [illegible] the **Riddler** tell such an unlikely [illegible] lie? (If it turns out that the **Batman** who got shot was actually **Superman** in disguise I will demand my money back!)

BATMAN #292 ("The Testimony of The Riddler") raises these questions, but it more than fulfills the promise shown by the **Catwoman** chapter of this four-parter. We start off with a very fine cover which [illegible] easily establishes the grim mood of this tale of **Batman's** journey towards [illegible]. **Riddler's** characterization is done perfectly, combining playful prankishness and [illegible] with a new brutal ferocity that manifests itself in his [illegible] riddle, his killing a man simply to provide a clue, and his savage "murder" of **Batman**. The story moves quickly, somehow compressing two issues' worth of events into one [illegible] seeming rushed, and every new plot development holds the reader [illegible]. The riddles are for once appropriately [illegible] and truly [illegible]. **Batman's** [illegible] appearance in the [illegible] admirably captures his nearly supernatural aura of invincibility. **Two-Face's** exposure of the truth is again brilliantly done, providing a dramatic finale to the mag.

In short, I was very pleased overall! You are producing very good work in both **BATMAN** and **DETECTIVE** these days. Unquestionably, "The Testimony of The Riddler" was a [illegible] dynamite story!

PETER SANDERSON
37 Rev. Belcher Lane
Milton, MA 02186

(Hopefully, your questions were cleared up in BATMAN #294, as far as who believed Batman was dead. As for the Riddler's true-or-false story, we don't see him swearing to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" in the story, so what do you think?—Bob)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

When I read the first part of the "Underworld Olympics" series some issues ago, I was very disappointed in it. Who could take such a thing seriously? But I soon realized that if you set this point aside, the stories were excellent and internally consistent, which made suspension of disbelief much easier. So when I read "Where Were You on the Night Batman Was Killed?" my reaction was the same. Who could take such a thing seriously? But, remembering the previous case, I decided to wait and see if time would change my view.

Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way. In getting the stories from the villains' viewpoints, we miss all the brilliant deductions and little insights that make David V. Reed's depiction of **The Batman** so interesting. (Indeed, we never learn how **The Batman** performs some of the miracles!) And the fact that we know the reported story is a lie destroys what little interest there is in the rest.

RICK PETERSON
[illegible]
Berkeley, CA 94704

(While it is virtually impossible for any reader to believe that Batman could really be dead, if we had told the stories from his point of view there [illegible] at all that he wasn't! As for the Real Batman you enjoy, he's back this issue, brilliant deductions and little insights intact. Okay?—Bob Rozakis)

* * * * *

Rich Morrissey, Batmaniac supreme, [illegible] the [illegible] of *BATMANIA*, [illegible] the [illegible] tale, the nonetheless interesting, villains of his Batmaniac Poll for 1975.

His Batman stories: "The Curious Case of Catwoman's Coincidences" (*BATMAN #266*) their favorite, with "The [illegible] of Terry Trenayne" (*BATMAN #268*) a close [illegible].

The "Bat-Murderer" series (*DETECTIVE #'s 444-448*) was a big leader in the specials and team-ups department. "The Joker's Double Jeopardy" (*JOKER #7*) [illegible] best [illegible] "family" honors, followed closely by "The Parking Lot Bandit" (*TEC #'s 450-451*) and "A Gold Star For The Joker" (*JOKER #4*).

In the personal achievement department, writer Denny O'Neil, artist Jim Aparo and Bat-editor Julie Schwartz topped the lists.

The polling on 1976 is going on as we write this, and we hope to have a full report on them as soon as Rich tallies the votes.

Meantime, if you'd like to see a copy of *BATMANIA* it's a dollar for one issue, or $3.75 for a four-ish subscription. The address is Richard Morrissey, 65 Claudette Circle, Framingham, MA, 01701. Tell him who sent you!

* * * * *

Only four more issues to *BATMAN #300* and [illegible], out of [illegible]